

Washington, DC – Today, the House of Representatives passed the [Travel Promotion Act of 2009 \(S 1023\)](#) by a vote of 358-66. This bill would create a non-profit corporation to promote travel to the United States. **Congres**

man Charlie Gonzalez (TX 20)

issued the following statement on the bill's passage.

“Tourism has long been a vital industry for cities across the country, with San Antonio only the best among many great destinations for international travelers, from business to scholarly work to pleasure. Unfortunately, policies in recent years have depressed travel. The Corporation for Travel Promotion can turn that around, helping to explain the requirements and to remind people from other countries why coming to the US is worth the effort.”

Since 2001, the travel to the United States has fallen precipitously, with our share of the international travel market having down 20 percent, according to [Rep. Bill Delahunt](#), who introduced related legislation in the House. The result has been

[\\$140 billion in lost revenue](#)

, as well as an additional \$23 billion in reduced government income. Because the Corporation for Travel Promotion will be funded by a public-private partnership and a \$10 fee for use of the [Visa Waiver program](#)

, it is estimated that it will

[reduce the federal deficit by \\$425 million](#)

over the next decade while boosting economies around the country.

Having been passed by the Senate and House, the bill goes next to President Obama to be signed into law.

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